

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) A device having at least first and second communications sections suitable for connection to similar devices along different bi-directional communications links, said first communications section being arranged to respond to reception of a clock transition signal along a first communications link by transmitting a clock transition signal having the same polarity back along said first communications link, and said second communications section arranged to respond to reception of a clock transition signal along a second communications link by transmitting a clock transition signal having the opposite polarity back along said second communications link.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 26, wherein said first communications section holds a first clock logic level and an output, when the first communications section is not connected to another device, and wherein said second communications section holds a second clock logic level having an opposite polarity to the first clock state logic level as an input, when the second communications section is not connected to another device.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 26, wherein said second communications section holds a first clock logic level as an output, when the second communications section is not connected to another device, and wherein said first communications section holds a second clock logic level having an opposite polarity to the first clock state logic level as an output, when the first communications section is not connected to another device.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 26, wherein the linked communication sections form a loop, when the first communications section is linked to the second communications section of another device or vice-versa through a bi-directional communications link, and wherein the device uses an oscillating clock transition signal passing around the loop as a clock signal for communication along the communications link.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 29, in which, when the first and second communication sections are first linked, the difference between their held input and output clock logic levels causes the oscillating clock transition signals to begin passing around the loop.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) An electronic communication network comprising at least first and second devices connected by at least one bi-directional communications link, wherein a loop is formed by said first device receiving a clock transition signal along the communications link and sending a

clock transition signal having the same polarity back along the communications link and said second device receiving a clock transition signal along the communications link and sending a clock transition signal having the opposite polarity back along the communications link, and wherein the first and second devices use the oscillating clock transition signals traveling around the loop to provide a clock signal to control data transfer along the communications link.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) A network as claimed in Claim 31, in which the clock transition signals traveling around the loop are used as said clock signal.

Claims 33-36 (Canceled)